REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the present invention over the prior art as will be hereinafter described in greater detail. The elements of cancelled claims 2, 3, 5, and 7 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. the elements of cancelled claims 9, 10, and 12 have incorporated into independent claim 8. Claims 14-20 covering computer programs have been cancelled, and new claims 21-23 have been substituted therefor. New claims 21-23 correspond in scope to remaining method claims 8, 11, and 13.

The rejection of claims to computer programs under 35 USC 112, 2nd Paragraph.

Claims 14-20 have been cancelled. New claims 21-23 substituted therefor are submitted to be definite under the requirements of this statute. New claims 21-23 define a computer program on a computer useable medium which when executed causes the computer to perform defined steps. Accordingly, Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Remaining claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, and new claims 21-23 are submitted to be unobvious and patentable over Blewett (US5,835,718) in view of Weller et al. (US7,149,797) under 35 USC 103(a).

Since claim 1 now includes the elements of claim 5, claim 8 includes the elements of claim 12, and new independent claim 21 corresponds in scope to claim 8, all of the claims in this Application are now considered to be rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention addresses a problem quite different from the problem for which the Blewett patent

teaches a solution.

The present invention relates to relationship between computer users at receiving Web display stations and the Web service providers which access Web documents for their subscribers i.e. users at a fee. Such Web service providers are paid by the users to make Web access display interfaces as easy as possible for the users. To this goal, the present invention relates to the simplification of the URLs of documents which the user may wish to access from remote source databases on the Web. As remote source databases on the Web have become more numerous and extensive, the URLs have become much more lengthy and complex. These URLs conventionally consist of a lead portion defining the domain of the Web database source followed by a description of the path that a document search crawler may follow through the hierarchy of the source database to reach the document location. These automatically generated URLs have highly complex and lengthy path portions, often full of question marks and other command punctuation, such as "&, %, $ and +".

Thus, the user and, particularly, the limited or computer novice user is faced with a difficult and tedious burden in attempting to retrieve Web documents of interest by entering the URLs of such documents. It is to such users that the service provider provides its function of simplifying these complex URls. The key to the invention is to turn the function of converting to simpler URLs from cumbersome URLs over to Web service providers. Accordingly, the converted URL will have a new domain portion, i.e. the Web service provider's domain, along with a simplified path portion defining the path with the Web service provider's domain. This converted URL will be the simplified URL presented to the user. When the user with these simplified

URLs makes a selection to access a selected Web document from a remote Web site, then the Web service provider reconverts to the original URL which is then used to conventionally access the selected web document from its remote source.

The Blewett process does convert some URLs defining the addresses of remote Web document sources, present such converted URLs to the user, and then reconvert such URLs to their original form before accessing user selected documents from remote Web sources. However, Blewett does not teach the performance of any function by a Web service provider. The purpose of Blewett's system is to correlate a user display interface to handle documents which are accessed locally i.e. not via Web with documents which are accessed via the Web. The local documents have a URL with a local domain and a local path. The user display interface also accesses the remote Web documents which have a Web URL with a remote domain. To make the access interface easier for the user, the URLs of the Web documents are converted locally to local URLs so that every document presented to the user has a local URL with a local domain. Then, when a user selects a document, the user is not aware as to whether the document is a local or remote document. A local decision is made as to whether the user selected document is from a local domain database or from a remote Web database through an indicator showing whether the selected document still has an original URL or a converted i.e. alias URL. If local, the document is accessed locally. If the URL is indicated to be converted, the URL is reconverted, and the Web document is accessed from the remote source. This is all transparent to the user.

It is submitted that Blewett's described operation is in no way suggestive of the present invention's service

provider function wherein the service provider simplifies the URL of a remote Web source by converting the URL to the service provider domain, simplifies the path portion of the converted URL, and bills the user for this service.

The Examiner looks to the Weller reference to make up for this deficiency in the teaching of Blewett. Applicants submit that Weller is just a very general teaching of an Internet or Web service provider which bills for its services. It has no further relevance to the above described shortcomings of the Blewett patent.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims amended claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, and new claims 21-23 are now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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